

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A system for reprogramming a mobile optical reader, said system comprising:
a symbol generator generating at least one reprogramming symbol, said reprogramming symbol generator including a user interface utilized to select information to encode in said symbol;
a reconfigurable device reading said at least one reprogramming symbol to produce a data stream corresponding to said at least one reprogramming symbol, said reconfigurable device including a program processing said reprogramming symbol data stream,
wherein said data stream encodes formatted file data, and wherein said program decodes said formatted file data and stores said formatted file data into a memory of said reconfigurable device.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein said data stream further encodes a command encoding a command to execute an executable program.
3. The system of claim 1, wherein said user interface is a graphical user interface (GUI).
4. A system for reprogramming a mobile optical reader, said system comprising:
a symbol generator generating at least one reprogramming symbol, said reprogramming symbol generator including a user interface utilized to select information to encode in said symbol;
a reconfigurable device reading said at least one reprogramming symbol to produce a data stream corresponding to said at least one reprogramming symbol, said reconfigurable device including a program processing said reprogramming symbol data stream,
wherein said data stream encodes a command to execute an executable program.
5. A system for reprogramming a mobile optical reader, said system comprising:
a symbol generator generating at least one reprogramming symbol, said reprogramming symbol generator including a user interface utilized to select information to

encode in said symbol;

a reconfigurable device reading said symbol to produce a data stream corresponding to said reprogramming symbol, said reconfigurable device including a program processing said reprogramming symbol data stream,

wherein said user interface allowed a user to select a formatted file stored on said symbol generator for encoding into said reprogramming symbol.

6. The system of claim 5, wherein said user interface further allows a user to input a command for causing execution of an executable program stored on said reconfigurable device.

7. A system for programming a portable device, said system comprising:

a symbol generator encoding a formatted file on at least one symbol;

an optical reader incorporated in said portable device.

wherein said portable device actuates said reader to decode said at least one symbol to generate a data stream, and process said data stream to store said formatted file in a memory of said portable device.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein said symbol generator includes a user interface, allowing a user to select a formatted file to encode.

9. The system of claim 7, wherein said symbol generator further encodes path data determining a path in a memory of said portable device in which to store a formatted file.

10. The system of claim 7, wherein said formatted file data is a text file.

11. The system of claim 7, wherein said formatted file is an audio file.

12. The system of claim 7, wherein said formatted file is an .XML file.

13. A symbol generator including:

a graphical user interface including a first data input area facilitating entry of formatted file data, and a second data input area facilitating entry of command data;
an encoder encoding into at least one symbol a formatted file in accordance with said input formatted file data, and a command in accordance with said input command data.

14. The generator of claim 13, wherein said graphical user interface further includes a data input area facilitating input of path data involving a storage location for storing a formatted file onto a portable device.

15. The generator of claim 13, wherein said generator automatically changes a number of symbols to encode depending.

16. The generator of claim 13, wherein said graphical user interface includes a data input area allowing a user to indicate a number of symbols to be encoded.

17. The generator of claim 13, wherein said graphical user interface further includes a data entry area facilitating entry of data indicating whether encoded symbol data is to be compressed.

18. The generator of claim 13, wherein said graphical user interface further includes a data entry area facilitating entry of data indicating whether encoded symbol data is to be encrypted prior to being encoded into a symbol.

19. A portable device comprising:
a memory;
a reading unit decoding a symbol to generate a data stream;
a control circuit executing a data stream processing program processing said data stream,
wherein said control circuit when executing said data stream processing program locates formatted file data in said data stream, and stores said formatted file data into said memory.

20. The portable device of claim 19, wherein said formatted file data is .XML formatted file data.

21. The portable device of claim 19, comprising a display and keyboard, wherein said control circuit in one mode of operation utilizes at least one of OS Free or single-threaded commands to display a broadcast option menu interface.

22. The portable device of claim 19, wherein said formatted file data is audio file data selected from the group consisting of .WAV, .MP3, and .MID.

23. The portable device of claim 19, wherein said formatted file data is web page formatted file data selected from the group consisting of .HTML, .ASP, .DHTML, AND .VRML formatted file data.

24. A portable device comprising:
a memory;
a reading unit decoding a symbol to generate a data stream;
a control circuit executing a data stream processing program processing said data stream,
wherein said control circuit when executing said data stream processing program locates path data in said data stream, and stores formatted file data into said memory in accordance with said path data.

25. A portable device comprising:
a memory;
a reading unit decoding a symbol to generate a data stream;
a control circuit executing a data stream processing program processing said data stream,
wherein said control circuit when executing said data stream processing program locates command data in said data stream, and executes a command in accordance with said

command data.

26. The portable device of claim 25, wherein said command is a command to store a digital certificate on said memory.

27. The portable device of claim 25, wherein said command is a command to automatically execute an audio player executable file.

28. The portable device of claim 25, comprising a display and keyboard, wherein said control circuit in one mode of operation utilizes at least one of OS free or single-threaded commands to display on said display at least one of a broadcast option menu interface, and a receive option menu interface.

29. The portable device of claim 27, wherein said command is a command to execute a word processing program executable file.

30. The portable device of claim 27, wherein said command is a File Transfer Protocol (FTP) command.

31. The portable device of claim 27, wherein said command is a command to configure a radio.

32. The portable device of claim 27, wherein said command is a command to configure a printer.

33. The portable device of claim 25, wherein said command is part of a batch file.

34. The portable device of claim 25, wherein said portable device operates in a reprogramming mode in which OS free commands are utilized for control of a communication link.

35. A method for inputting data into a device which reads bar codes, said method comprising:
successively generating a plurality of bar codes at a fixed position;
orienting a bar code reading device to read indicia at said fixed position; and
operating said device to continuously read bar codes, so that said device reads each of said plurality of successively generated bar codes.

36. The method of claim 35, wherein said operating step includes the step of holding down a trigger.

37. The method of claim 35, wherein said operating step includes the step of repetitively actuating a trigger.

38. The method of claim 35, further including the step of placing said reader on a stand.

39. The method of claim 35, wherein said successively generated bar codes are electronically displayed on a display.

40. The method of claim 35, wherein said successively generated bar codes are projected.

41. A bar code data reading system comprising:
a display operated to successively display a plurality of bar codes at a fixed position on said display and
at least one reader oriented at a location so that said reader can read bar codes at said fixed position, wherein said reader is operated to continuously read bar codes at said fixed position.

42. The system of claim 41, wherein said at least one reader is a plurality of readers,

each being oriented at said fixed position.

43. The system of claim 41, wherein said at least one reader is configured to operate in a continuous scan mode, and is operated in said continuous scan mode.

44. The system of claim 41, wherein said at least one reader is operated to continuously read bar codes at said fixed position by holding down a trigger.

45. The system of claim 41, wherein said at least one reader is operated to continuously read bar codes at said fixed position by repetitively actuating a trigger.

46. The system of claim 41, wherein said system includes a stand holding said reader.

47. A symbol generator including:

a prompting user interface including a first data input area and a second data input area, said first data input area receiving information pertaining to a formatted file to encode, said second data input area receiving information pertaining to a number of bar codes to encode;

wherein said symbol generator encodes formatted file data in accordance with information input into said first data input area and encodes a number of bar codes in accordance with information input into said second data input area.

48. The symbol generator of claim 47, wherein said user interface includes a feedback information area indicating a number of bytes of data into a to-be-encoded bar code.

49. The symbol generator of claim 47, wherein said user interface is a GUI.

50. The symbol generator of claim 47, wherein said user interface includes a third data input area receiving data corresponding to a desired number of bytes of a to-be-encoded bar code.

51. The symbol generator of claim 47, wherein formatted file designation input into said first data input area is a designation corresponding to an .EXE file.

52. A symbol generator comprising:
a user interface allowing a user to input information respecting data to encode;
an encoder encoding a set of bar codes in accordance with aid input information;
wherein said encoder, in encoding said bar code symbol set encodes in each symbol of said set a field indicating a total number of symbols of said set and a field indicating the number in said set of said present field.

53. The symbol generator of claim 52, wherein said user interface allows a user to designate a formatted file to encode.

54. The symbol generator of claim 52, wherein said user interface allows a user to designate a number of symbols to encode.

55. A system initiating a communication, said system comprising:
a network;
a bar code reading portable device having a radio;
a bar code symbol encoding information instructing a configuration of said radio;
wherein said portable device is operated to read said bar code symbol so that said radio is configured to communicate with said network.

56. A system comprising:
a printer having an associated first radio;
a bar code reading portable device having a second radio;
a bar code symbol encoding a command;
wherein said portable device is configured, and said command is authored so that when said portable device reads said symbol, said portable device is configured to be in communication with said printer.

57. The system of claim 56, wherein said bar code symbol is disposed on said printer.

58. The system of claim 56, wherein said portable device includes a motherboard and a radio circuit board, and an interconnection assembly connecting said motherboard and said radio circuit board, said interconnection assembly including a pair of snap fitting board connectors, and a connector sleeve disposed about said board connectors to oppose shear forces relative to said board connectors.

59. A reprogramming system comprising:
a bar code reading portable device;
a nonintegrated computer device in communication with said portable device;
at least one reprogramming symbol encoding a command to download into said portable device a formatted file located on said nonintegrated computer device;
a data stream processing a module incorporated in said portable device;
wherein said portable device is operable to read said at least one reprogramming symbol and in accordance with said data stream processing module, execute said command encoded in said bar code symbol to download formatted file data from said nonintegrated computer device.

60. The system of claim 59, wherein said command is an OS understandable command.

61. The system of claim 59, wherein said command utilizes file transfer protocol.

62. The system of claim 59, wherein said command utilizes a command of the TCP/IP protocol suite.

63. The system of claim 59, wherein said portable device and said nonintegrated computer device are part of a common LAN.

64. The system of claim 59, wherein said nonintegrated computer device is a device remote relative to said portable device.

65. The system of claim 59, wherein said portable device and said nonintegrated computer device are in communication via the Internet.

66. The system of claim 59, wherein said portable device and said nonintegrated computer device are in communication via an Intranet.

67. The system of claim 59, wherein said nonintegrated computer device is a personal computer.

68. The system of claim 59, wherein said portable device includes a connector sleeve aiding a connection between a motherboard and a radio circuit board therein.